

(a) whether most of the small and tiny sick industrial units are not able to make use of the nursing programmes for the revival of sick units in view of the cumbersome procedure laid down for the purpose;

(b) whether the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction has suggested a change in the definition of sick industries and the conditions laid down for extending the nursing programme to such units; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this matter and the stage at which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that only units considered potentially viable after a viability study conducted by the banks are put under nursing programmes and that the procedures laid down for the purpose of nursing programmes are not such as to come in the way of the revival of potentially viable sick units.

(b) and (c). The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has made various suggestions for amendments to the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). These include a change in the definition of sick industrial units and the conditions laid down for extending the nursing programmes to such units. Various proposals of amendments to SICA are currently under the consideration of the Government.

Small scale industrial units (including units in the tiny sector) are, however, not covered by SICA.

[Translation]

Export of Agricultural and Industrial Products

5912. SHRI SURESHANAND Swami: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the main agricultural and industrial products proposed to be introduced in international market during the current year and the next two years;

(b) the extent of revenue likely to be earned by the Government therefrom annually; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to avoid any adverse impact on domestic demand of the products proposed to be introduced in international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The main agricultural and industrial products, which are being exported during the current year and expected to be exported during the next two years include cereals, tobacco, spices, cashew kernels, oilmeals, processed foods, marine products, ores and minerals, leather and leather manufactures, gems and jewellery, sports goods, chemicals and related products, engineering goods, electronics and computer software, textiles, handicrafts, carpets, petroleum products etc.

(b) India's exports earnings during April-January, 1991-92 amounted to Rs.34699 crores. It is difficult to precisely estimate at this stage the foreign exchange likely to be earned from exports in the next two years.

(c) The policy of the Government is to export the products where surpluses are available, after meeting the domestic demand. Besides, production for export purposes is encouraged under certain specially designed schemes such as Export Oriented Unit Scheme and Export Processing Zones.